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MARVEL SPIDER-MAN GROUP
SCARLET SPIDER
UNLIMITED™
THE TOMB OF KAINE!
DIRECT EDITION
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Once he was **Peter Parker,** a student who, after being bitten by a radioactive spider, became the **Amazing Spider-Man!** Now, after five years of wandering America, believing himself to be a clone of Parker, he has returned as **Ben Reilly,** and is ready to resume his crusade to protect the innocent and battle evil, in a new costumed identity...

Stan Lee presents: THE SCARLET SPIDER!

THE SUB-BASEMENT OF A BROOKLYN WAREHOUSE, THREE WEEKS AGO...
OOH, HE'S AN UGLY ONE, YES? EVEN FOR A HU-MAN.
WE SHOULD MAYBE LET THE HU-MAN OUT TO PLAY...?
NO, SPINNER! CLOSE IT-- QUICKLY!
THIS CREATURE IS OBVIOUSLY CONFINED FOR A REASON--A REASON WHICH IS NO CONCERN OF OURS!
OUR MISSION IS TO SECURE THE MASTER'S SECRETS, AND THE LAST THING WE NEED IS ANOTHER ELEMENT OF DANGER TO SCREW IT ALL UP!
SLAM
NOW, LET'S GET TO WORK!

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you say you want an EVOLUTION!

THE SAME WAREHOUSE, TODAY...

OBOY.

IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SWEAR THEY WERE FILMING THE SEQUEL TO *OUTBREAK* DOWN THERE.

BUT SINCE THIS WAREHOUSE HAPPENS TO BE THE *FRONT* FOR THE JACKAL'S UNDERGROUND LAB, I SMELL SOMETHING MORE SINISTER THAN CELLULOID!

BESIDES, IF IT *IS* A MOVIE, THEY'RE CERTAINLY SCRAPING THE BOTTOM OF THE BARREL FOR *ACTORS* THESE DAYS.

I MEAN, COULDN'T THEY HAVE FOUND A BETTER REPLACEMENT FOR *DUSTIN HOFFMAN'S* ROLE...

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...THAN JACOB RAVEN?!
BUT I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY HE'S SO OBSESSED! THAT'S KAINE'S HANDPRINT OVER RAVEN'S FACE!
YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME THROUGH! I'M A COP!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE THE POPE! THIS IS A FEDERAL MATTER NOW, AND UNTIL WE'RE SURE THERE'S NO RISK OF CONTAMINATION, NO ONE GETS IN!
FEDS
THEY DON'T REALIZE THAT THERE MAY BE SOMETHING INSIDE THAT BUILDING EVEN MORE DANGEROUS THAN A FEW BACTERIA...
THEY'RE SO MIRED IN PROCEDURE AND RED TAPE...
...THAT THEY DON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE A PREDATOR IN THEIR MIDST...
...UNTIL IT'S BITTEN THEM ON THE FOOT!
UH-OH. LOOKS LIKE RAVEN'S SINKING HIP-DEEP INTO THIS MESS--

--AND THIS LITTLE SPIDER'S GONNA HAVE TO HAUL HIS TAIL OUT OF IT... AGAIN!
HOLD IT, LONG-JOHNS! THIS IS A RESTRICTED AREA.
EXACTLY.
AND JUST WHO ARE YOU GUYS?
WHAT?
NO, W.H.O.--THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. WE'VE TRACED THE ORIGIN OF THE SPRINGVILLE CARRION VIRUS* TO THIS HERE LOCATION.
* THE DEADLY PLAGUE RELEASED BY THE JACKAL IN SPIDER-MAN: MAXIMUM CLONAGE: ALPHA. --ERIC
I ASSUME YOU'RE SPIDER-MAN?
NEVER ASSUME. I'M THE SCARLET SPIDER.
WHO?
FIRST BASE.
COMMANDER--WE'VE SECURED THE PERIMETER, BUT WE HAVEN'T FOUND A TRACE OF THE VIRUS.
THEN WHY IS MY SPIDER-SENSE BUZZING...?

"...WHAT'S RAVEN GOTTEN HIMSELF INTO THIS TIME?"
IT'S MILLER TIME, CHARLIE. WE SEARCHED THE WAREHOUSE TOP TO BOTTOM AND CAME UP WITH ZILCH!
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR.
A TRAIL OF MARKED BODIES FROM SALT LAKE CITY TO MANHATTAN HAS FINALLY LED ME HERE--
--TO THE LAST REPORTED VICINITY OF MY PARTNER'S KILLER...
...THE FUGITIVE KNOWN AS KAINE!
WELL, WELL...WHAT HAVE WE HERE? THIS SHINY, NEW ELECTRICAL SYSTEM SEEMS OUT OF PLACE IN AN OLD, RUNDOWN WAREHOUSE.
AND WHAT'S THIS? A MOVING PANEL--!
PRESTO! INSTANT STAIRWELL!
ONLY ONE PLACE IT CAN LEAD--
--DOWN!
NOW, LET'S SEE WHAT'S THROUGH THIS--

SWEET MOTHER OF MERCY!
IT'S SOME KIND OF LAB--WITH ALL SORTS OF INFORMATION FLASHING ON THE MONITORS!
I'M NO GENETICS EXPERT, BUT I KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT FORENSICS TO RECOGNIZE A DNA MOLECULE AND CELLULAR REPLICATION WHEN I SEE IT!
MY GOD, A SECRET LAB. IT MUST'VE BELONGED TO THE JACKAL. WHAT WAS HE UP TO?
SINCE HE'S DEAD, I DOUBT I'LL EVER FIND OUT. MAYBE THERE ARE MORE CLUES THROUGH--
--A CONTAINMENT POD?!

TOO DARK. CAN HARDLY SEE ANY--
OH, MY GOD...
...KAINE!
HE SEEMS TO BE IN SOME KIND OF TRANCE... OR WORSE. BUT I CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES.
BLAM
NASTY TOY. NASTY HU-MAN. SPOIL MASTER'S PLAN, YES?
WHA--? DEMONS...!
NOOOOO!
DRIP DRIP DRIP

I COULD HAVE EASILY GOTTEN PAST THOSE M.H.O. GOONS, BUT WHAT'S THE POINT? THEY'VE GOT A JOB TO DO--
--AND SO DO I!
JACOB RAVEN IS SO OBSESSED WITH MY DEGENERATE CLONE, KAINE, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE'LL DO TO BRING HIM IN!
"UNFORTUNATELY, I DON'T THINK ANYONE BOTHERED TELLING OUR DISGRUNTLED DETECTIVE THAT KAINE DIED AT THE HANDS OF A CREATURE CALLED SPIDERCIDE."*
*SEE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #227. --Eric
BUT IF KAINE'S OUT OF THE PICTURE, THEN WHAT KIND OF DANGER WAS MY SPIDER-SENSE PICKING UP?
I THOUGHT THIS CHAPTER IN MY LIFE WAS CLOSED! FINITO! KAPUT!!
I HATE SEQUELS.

STOP STRUGGLING-- SAVE YOUR STRENGTH. SPINNERET'S COCOONS ARE QUITE FORMIDABLE.
I'M TRULY SORRY THAT I CANNOT IN GOOD CONSCIENCE LET YOU GO NOW THAT YOU KNOW ABOUT OUR OPERATION.
WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHO--WHAT ARE YOU? AND WHAT'S ALL THIS HAVE TO DO WITH KAINE?!
AH, GOOD. YOU'RE AWAKE.
MAYBE YOU'RE NOT AS SOFT AS THE REST OF YOUR RACE, EH?
BROOP BROOP BROOP
NOISE! NOISE! NOISE!
MACHINE SHOWS ANOTHER HU-MAN IN TUNNELS BELOW!
QUICKLY! EVERYONE INTO THE SEWER!

YUCK! I BET CAPTAIN AMERICA NEVER HAS TO CRAWL THROUGH THE SEWERS--

UH-OH SPIDER-SENSE IS PACKING A WALLOP!

HEAR THAT, KOMODO--HE WANTS YOU TA PACK 'IM A WALLOP!

THAT'S WHAT I INTEND TO DO, BUZZARD.

WHAT IS "WALLOP"?

LISTEN TO ME, INTRUDER--THE DAY YOU SEEK TO OPPOSE THE ANIMEN IS THE DAY YOU DIE!

JUST LEAVE ENOUGH BLOOD FOR THE FLYING FOX TO FEAST!

I GET THE WISHBONE!

YEOWW!

AN.MEN, huh? I GUESS IT'S TRUE THEN--
:UNGH!
KOMODO!
--ALL THE GOOD NAMES HAVE BEEN TAKEN!
YOU'RE NOT GOIN' ANYWHERE, WALL-CRAWLER--
--UNTIL YOU FEEL THE SQUEEZE OF MY BIONIC CLAW AND LEARN WHY I AM CALLED CRUSHTACEAN!
GEE AND HERE I THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE YOU'D DEVELOPED A FONDNESS FOR SEAFOOD!
WHA--?!

BUZZARD-- GIVE THE INTERLOPER A TRIM!
IMPRESSIVE, HUMAN. BUT HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO AVOID MY RAZOR-SHARP BEAK--?
TWIP
MM-MPH-MBB!
ONE BUZZ-CUT COMIN' UP --HUHZ!
THANKS FOR THE HAIR-CUT--
CLEARLY, YOU ARE NOT A TYPICAL HUMAN.
HERE'S YOUR TIP!
SNAP
WHAM

--BUT YOU ARE STILL OUT-MATCHED--
--AND OUT-NUMBERED!
WHA--? SILKY STRINGS COILING AROUND MY--
:GULK!:
EXCELLENT, SPINNERET! NOW HOLD HIM STEADY--
--SO I CAN FEED!
HEY!
BAM!
NO HICKEYS ON THE FIRST DATE!

BUT I GOT THE BRAINS!
HSSSS
THUK THUK
NOW THAT MY PATENTED STINGERS HAVE TAMED THE LAST OF THE BEASTIE BOYS--
--IT'S TIME FOR MY TRUSTY IMPACT WEBBING TO CLOSE THE DOOR TO THIS PARTY!
GEEPERS! AND I THOUGHT THE SPINNERET'S COBWEBS WERE TOUGH!
UGH! SORRY, "COUSIN"--YOU MIGHT'VE GOTTEN ALL THE LOOKS IN OUR FAMILY.
HOW D'YA LIKE THAT? HE LOCKED US OUT OF OUR OWN ROOST! NOW WHAT DO WE DO?
QUITE SIMPLE, MY FEATHERED FRIEND--WE FIND ANOTHER WAY IN AND SHOW OUR "GUEST" THE WAY OUT.
--PERMANENTLY

CAN'T GET COCKY THAT WAS A TEMPORARY VICTORY AT BEST
I'VE GOT TO FIND RAVEN FAST, BEFORE THE ZOO-CREW BREAKS THROUGH!
OH, THIS IS JUST GREAT! THE ANIMEN ARE DOWNLOADING THE JACKAL'S FILES TO ANOTHER SOURCE AND ERASING THEM FROM THE MAINFRAME HERE.
IT'S ALWAYS A BONUS WHEN THE SEWER SYSTEM LEADS CONVENIENTLY TO THE MAD DOCTOR'S SECRET LAB
EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE UP AND RUNNING WONDER WHAT'S FLASHING ACROSS THESE COMPUTER SCREENS AT LIGHTNING SPEED?
"THAT'S ALL WE NEED, ANOTHER LUNATIC WHO KNOWS THE SECRETS OF CLONING--
SPIDER-MAN
GENETIC VIRUS DNA - 10HB
"--ALONG WITH THE INGREDIENTS TO THE WORLD'S MOST DEADLY DISEASE"

WAIT A MINUTE! WHY IS THE FILE REGARDING THE SPIDER-MAN CLONE CROSS-REFERENCED WITH THAT OF THE JACKAL'S GENE-TWISTING CARRION VIRUS?!
BLAST! SPIDER-SENSE IS TINGLING!
BINGO! THIS SENSOR IS PICKING UP FIVE LIFE FORMS CONVERGING ON THIS SPOT FROM BELOW
RAVEN!
"LOOKS LIKE THE BRUTE GROUP IS ON THE LOOSE!
"WHICH MEANS THE BLIP ON THIS OTHER MONITOR CAN ONLY BE ONE THING--"
I HOPE...!

A-HA! ONE SALT LAKE CITY GUMSHOE, SEALED AND GIFT-WRAPPED!
HANG TIGHT, RAVEN--IT'S JUST YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SCARLET SAVIOR!
WH-WHO--?
I'M GONNA HAVE TO RIP YOUR CONTAINMENT SUIT OFF TO GET YOU OUT OF THERE!
SPINNERET'S WEBBING IS JUST AS STRONG AS MINE AND (ICK!) --ORGANIC!
SHREKK
DON'T--!
YOU FOOL! DO YOU REALIZE THAT YOU MAY HAVE EXPOSED US BOTH TO A DEADLY CONTAGION, ?!
RAVEN-- LET GO! I SENSE
...TROUBLE!
KRUNK
THWAP
WITH A CAPITAL "T," WALL-CRAWLER!

OOH! THAT HURT KOMODO PACKS ALMOST AS MUCH PUNCH AS--
--KAINE?!?
OHMIGOD THAT'S WHY RAVEN WAS SO FREAKED--THE JACKAL MUST HAVE PUT KAINE ON ICE AFTER SPIDERCIDE WHACKED HIM!
WOULD SOMEONE MIND TELLING ME JUST WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON AROUND HERE?!
IF THESE FREAKS ARE IN LEAGUE WITH KAINE, THEN IT CAN'T BE ANYTHING GOOD!
"FREAKS"? MOST OF MY COUNTRYMEN THINK I'M A REAL KNOCKOUT!
RAVEN--NO!
:UNGH!--
ANIMEN! CEASE THIS FRIVOLITY AT ONCE!
I DEMAND A STATUS REPORT! NOW!
THE MASTER!
WHAK
WHO?

MY LORD, HIGH EVOLUTIONARY, ALL FILES HAVE BEEN DOWNLOADED AND WE'VE INTRODUCED A VIRUS TO DESTROY ALL EVIDENCE OF THE PARIAH'S RESEARCH!
THEN YOUR WORK HERE IS DONE TARRY NO LONGER AMONG THESE SQUALID HUMANS!
BUT THEY KNOW TOO MUCH! LET ME TIE UP THESE LOOSE ENDS--
--BY KILLING THEM!
NO!
Y'KNOW SOMETHING, CRUSTY--
THMP
--YOU'VE GOT A REAL ATTITUDE PROBLEM!
LET GO, YOU FOOL! YOU'LL BE DRAGGED INTO THE TELEPORTATION MATRIX--!
FSHASH
DRIP DRIP DRIP

UH-OH
SOMETHING TELLS ME I'M NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE!
"YOU WON'T FIND IT A VERY HOSPITABLE VACATION SPOT
"ITS RESIDENTS DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO STRANGERS.
WELCOME TO MUNDAGORE, WALL-CRAWLER WELCOME TO OUR HOME.
" ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO INTERFERE WITH THE MONARCH'S DIVINE MISSION."
O-OKAAY.

THEN YOU WON'T BE UPSET IF I CATCH THE FIRST FLIGHT OUTTA HERE!
AFTER HIM!
I'M ON IT, CHIEF!
SHEESH! NOW I KNOW HOW FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER FELT!
GOTTA STAY LOW AND TIGHT--MAKES AN AERIAL ASSAULT MORE DIFFICULT!
WHOOPS!
THEN AGAIN, IT MAKES A GROUND ASSAULT THAT MUCH SIMPLER!

SOME SORT OF CHURCH.
AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY FOR THE SCARLET SPIDER'S LAST STAND!
STAY WHERE YOU ARE, INFIDEL!
I'LL TRY
CRASH
BUT YOU GUYS AREN'T MAKING IT EASY--
--UNGH!
ALL RIGHT! THAT'S IT!
I HAVE HAD--

THWAP!
--ENOUGH--
--OF--
--YOU!!
BAM
FEELING'S MUTUAL, BOY
KLONK
NOW--WHILE HE'S DAZED--I SAY WE HANG 'IM!
I SAY WE CRUCIFY 'IM!
I SAY WE HANG 'IM--THEN CRUCIFY 'IM!
I SAY WE LET 'IM GO!
STOP THIS AT ONCE!

THIS IS NOT OUR WAY!
DO YOU NOT RECOGNIZE THIS FIGURE ON THE ALTAR, MY ACOLYTES?
YES, HE MAY BE GARBED DIFFERENTLY THAN HIS PREDECESSOR, BUT HIS ACTIONS ARE QUITE DISTINCT.
YOU ARE THE OTHER ONE, AREN'T YOU?
"OTHER ONE"? YOU MEAN THE OTHER SPIDER-MAN?
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?!
WE KNOW THAT A MAN NAMED ANTHONY SERBA WAS INFECTED WITH A GENETIC VIRUS THAT ALTERED HIS DNA, CREATING A BIOLOGICAL CONSTRUCT OF THE ORIGINAL SPIDER-MAN.
YOU ARE A TESTAMENT TO OUR FAITH. WE VENERATE YOU!
ANTHONY SERBA? GENETIC VIRUS?! "BIOLOGICAL CONSTRUCT"?! WHERE'D YOU HEAR THAT STORY?

THIS IS INSANE! ONE MINUTE YOU'RE POUNDING THE STUFFING OUT OF ME, AND THE NEXT YOU'RE WORSHIPPING ME?
COME ON, GET UP!
LISTEN, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I DID THIS SORT OF THING ON A REGULAR BASIS WHERE THE HECK AM I--
--AND WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH THE JACKAL?
--THE SACRED TEMPLE OF THE JACKAL!!
WHY, IT HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH THE JACKAL, FOR HE IS OUR SAVIOR! I AM ANUBIA, HIGH PRIESTESS OF HIS CHURCH--
ALL HAIL THE MIGHTY JACKAL--

THE BEAST GOD IS MAN!
UH, LISTEN FOLKS, I HATE TO BURST YOUR BUBBLE, BUT YOU'RE WORSHIPPING A MADMAN!
THE JACKAL WAS ANYTHING BUT A SAVIOR--BUT HE NEVER USED ANY "GENETIC VIRUS" TO ALTER INNOCENT PEOPLE'S DNA STRUCTURES!
THE MAN WAS IN THE HABIT OF CREATING CLONES, NOT CONSTRUCTS!
HERESY!
HE IS A FALSE PROPHET, AS FORESEEN BY THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY!
SILENCE, MY ACOLYTES! LET US HEAR HIM OUT BEFORE WE CAST STONES!
FORGIVE THEM, MY FRIEND PLEASE, EXPLAIN YOURSELF
MAYBE IT WOULD HELP IF YOU TOLD ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW FIRST.
VERY WELL

THE GOAL OF OUR MASTER, THE LORD HIGH EVOLUTIONARY, IS TO EVOLVE THE WORLD TO ITS GREATEST POTENTIAL.
WE, HIS NEW MEN, WERE THE FIRST STEP IN THAT MASTER PLAN.
"THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY CREATED US BY EVOLVING A VARIETY OF ANIMALS.
"OF HIS INITIAL CREATIONS, PORGA AND TAGAR WERE MORE HUMAN-LOOKING THAN THE OTHER NEW MEN--
"--PRIMARILY DUE TO THE DEDICATED EFFORTS OF THE EVOLUTIONARY'S NEW ASSISTANT, MILES WARREN."
PROFESSOR WARREN?!

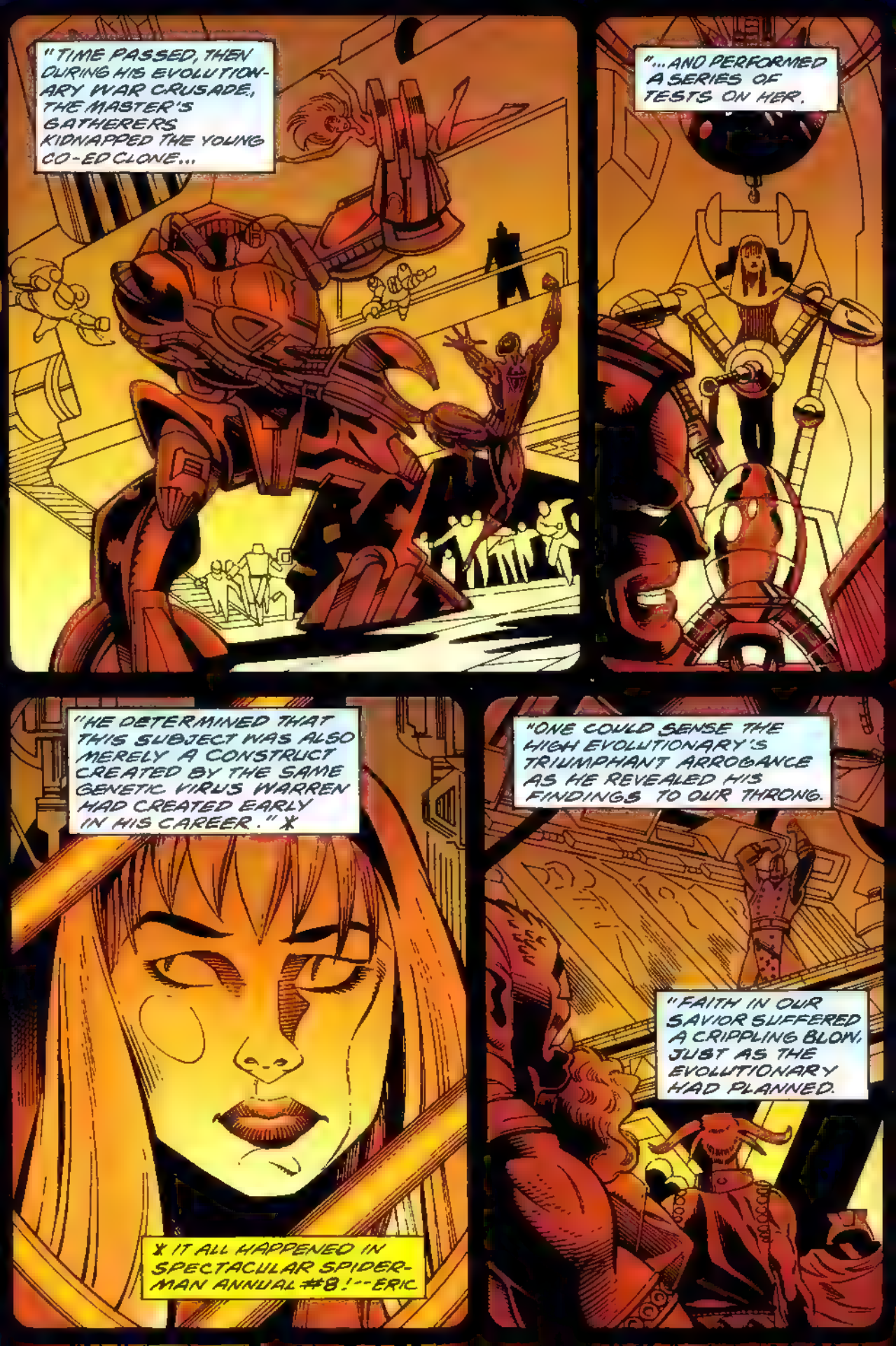
"BECAUSE OF THEIR RESEMBLANCE TO THE MASTER, THESE NEW MEN BECAME THE OBJECT OF DERISION AND ENVY.
"WHEREAS THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY WISHED TO CREATE A RACE OF GODS, WARREN DECIDED HE WOULD PLAY GOD HIMSELF AND CREATE A RACE OF PERFECT HUMANS.
"THOUGH HIS TALENTS WERE NOT IN THE SAME LEAGUE AS THE MASTER'S, WARREN USED THE EVOLUTIONARY'S TECHNOLOGY TO FURTHER HIS OWN ENDS.
"THUS, THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY BANISHED WARREN FROM WUNDAGORE, TELLING HIS NEW MEN THAT WARREN'S WAY WAS ULTIMATELY DESTRUCTIVE.
"BUT SOME OF US BELIEVED THE EVOLUTIONARY WAS TRYING TO KEEP US AS NOTHING MORE THAN HIS DOMESTICATED PETS, RATHER THAN GRANTING US OUR FREEDOM.
"REALIZING THAT THE MASTER FEARED WARREN AS A POTENTIAL RIVAL, THESE REBELS FOLLOWED THE HUMAN OUT OF WUNDAGORE...
"...ABANDONING OUR BRETHREN TO THE COLD EMBRACE OF THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY, WHO CONVERTED HIS CITADEL INTO A SPACESHIP--
"AND BROUGHT THEM TO THE STARS." *
* SEE THOR #135.--ERIC

"OUR SAVIOR WOULD LEAVE OUR NEW SETTLEMENT PERIODICALLY, RETURNING EVERY SUMMER WITH A PLAN TO MAKE US ALL HUMAN SO THAT WE COULD FOLLOW HIM INTO THE WORLD OF MAN.
"ONCE HE CREATED A SERUM FROM DNA SAMPLES HE OBTAINED FROM HUMAN DONORS. WARREN INJECTED IT INTO A GROUP OF NEW MEN VOLUNTEERS--
"--AND THE SUBJECTS BECAME HUMAN!
"HOWEVER, THE SERUM QUICKLY RAVAGED THEIR NEW BODIES-- TRANSFORMING THEM INTO LIVING CORPSES..."
...UNTIL DEATH MERCIFULLY OVERCAME THEM.
THAT SERUM MUST HAVE BEEN THE PROTOTYPE FOR THE CARRION VIRUS--
--THE JACKAL'S GENETIC PLAGUE WHICH EITHER KILLS YOU OR RAVAGES YOUR DNA STRUCTURE, MAKING YOU LOOK LIKE A DECOMPOSED VERSION OF WARREN HIMSELF!

"MILES WARREN GREW DESPONDENT.
"HE HAD YET TO DISCOVER A MEANS OF CAPTURING THE MINDS AND PRECIOUS INSTINCTS OF OUR UNIQUE RACE IN MORE HUMAN-LOOKING BODIES, ALLOWING THEM TO BLEND IN WITH SOCIETY.
"BUT WARREN WAS NO VICTOR VON FRANKENSTEIN. HE REFUSED TO RISK A HUMAN LIFE BY ATTEMPTING A BRAIN TRANSPLANT.
"NO, HIS EXPERTISE WAS GENETICS! THE ANSWER HAD TO LIE IN THE SPONTANEOUS REGENERATION OF A HUMAN BODY--
"--GENETICALLY ENGINEERED SO THAT THE BRAIN WAS A TABULA RASA INTO WHICH HE COULD PROGRAM THE NEW MEN'S MENTAL ENGRAMS."
OH, COME ON! CAN'T YOU SEE WARREN WANTED TO CREATE AN ARMY OF CLONES--
--CLONES WITH THE SUPERHUMAN INSTINCTS OF THE NEW MEN WHOSE MINDS WERE CONTROLLED BY HIM ALONE, YET WERE NOTHING MORE THAN AN ENDLESS SUPPLY OF GUINEA PIGS TO HIM?
THE MILES WARREN YOU KNEW, PERHAPS...
"..BUT AT THIS STAGE OF HIS LIFE, HIS MOTIVES WERE COMPLETELY SELFLESS
"HE LEFT US TO PURSUE HIS THEORY, AND IT WAS YEARS BEFORE WE HEARD FROM HIM AGAIN.

"A FOLLOWING HAD DEVELOPED AROUND THE LEGEND OF MILES WARREN, BUT MANY BEGAN TO LOSE FAITH.
JACKAL
"THEN, ON A SNOWY DAY IN EARLY JANUARY, HE RETURNED--
"IN A MOST DRAMATIC FASHION!
"THE JACKAL REVEALED THAT HE HAD CREATED TWO PERFECT CLONES, ONE OF A YOUNG COLLEGE CO-ED NAMED GWEN STACY...
"COLLECTING SOME IMPORTANT EQUIPMENT, THE JACKAL PROMISED THAT HE WOULD CALL FOR US SOON--BUT IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO HIM, WE SHOULD CONTINUE HIS EXPERIMENTS.
"...AND THE OTHER--OF YOURSELF!"
"HIS FOLLOWERS RALLIED AROUND HIM, ASSUMING THAT HE HAD DONNED THE COSTUME OF A JACKAL TO BE MORE LIKE THEM.
"THOUGH CONCERNED BY THEIR SAVIOR'S CRYPTIC FAREWELL, THE NEW MEN CELEBRATED BY ERECTING A STATUE OF THE JACKAL. ALL WAS JOYFUL IN NEW WUNDAGORE, UNTIL--

"--THE LORD HIGH EVOLUTIONARY RETURNED, WITH A VENGEANCE!
"DURING HIS ABSENCE, HE HAD EVOLVED INTO A GOD-LIKE ENTITY, THEN DEVOLVED BACK TO HIS HUMANOID FORM.
"BUT HE STILL DEMANDED RESPECT AS OUR CREATOR, SO HE DESTROYED OUR NEW ICON AND ESTABLISHED HIMSELF ONCE MORE AS OUR LORD AND MASTER
"AN UNDERGROUND REBELLION FORMED, CALLING ITSELF THE CULT OF THE JACKAL.
"FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, I WAS ORDAINED AS ITS HIGH PRIESTESS.
"AS LEADER OF THIS REBELLION, I SENT SPIES INTO MAN'S WORLD TO LEARN OUR SAVIOR'S FATE. THEY REPORTED BACK WITH NEWS OF THE JACKAL'S DEATH.*
*AS SEEN IN THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #149. --ERIC
"THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY WAS NOT PLEASED WHEN HE LEARNED OF OUR MEMORIAL SERVICE.
HE PROMISED MY CHURCH THAT HE WOULD EXPOSE OUR MESSIAH AS A FRAUD.

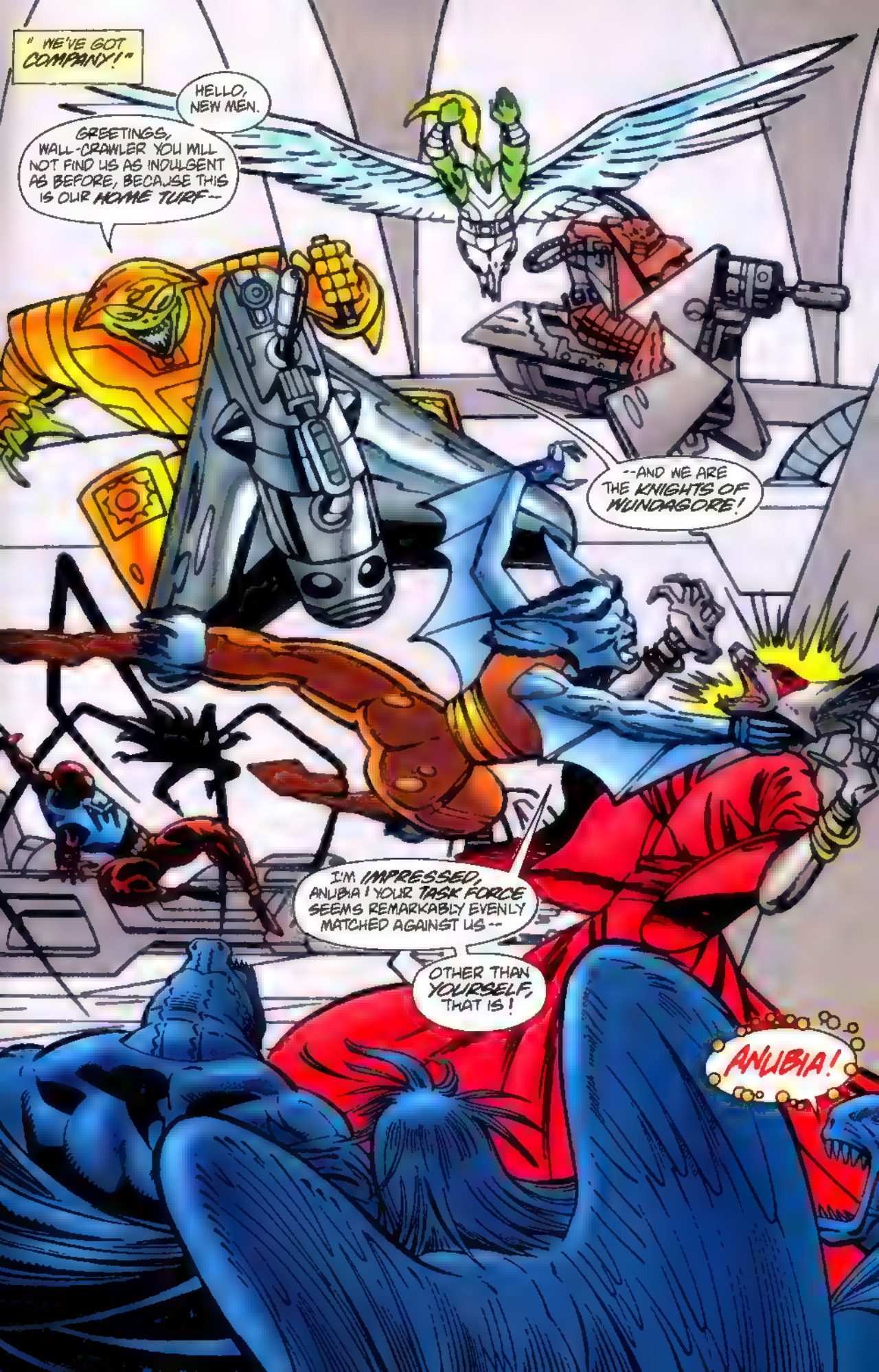

"TIME PASSED, THEN DURING HIS EVOLUTIONARY WAR CRUSADE, THE MASTER'S GATHERERS KIDNAPPED THE YOUNG CO-ED CLONE...
"...AND PERFORMED A SERIES OF TESTS ON HER.
"HE DETERMINED THAT THIS SUBJECT WAS ALSO MERELY A CONSTRUCT CREATED BY THE SAME GENETIC VIRUS WARREN HAD CREATED EARLY IN HIS CAREER." X
X IT ALL HAPPENED IN SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #8!--ERIC
"ONE COULD SENSE THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY'S TRIUMPHANT ARROGANCE AS HE REVEALED HIS FINDINGS TO OUR THRONG.
"FAITH IN OUR SAVIOR SUFFERED A CRIPPLING BLOW, JUST AS THE EVOLUTIONARY HAD PLANNED.

"BUT I REFUSED TO BELIEVE THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY UNTIL I CONFIRMED HIS REVELATION MYSELF.
"SO I SENT MORE SPIES INTO YOUR WORLD TO DISCOVER THE TRUTH!
"I WAS DISMAYED TO LEARN THAT OUR MASTER HAD NOT LIED TO US. THE SPIES UNCOVERED MILES WARREN'S JOURNAL, WHICH CLEARLY STATED IN WARREN'S OWN WORDS...
"She will be the second subject to undergo cellular-level transformation, via the genetic virus I have developed.
"Today I waylaid a young pupil of mine, Joyce Delany
"My assistant, Anthony Serba, was the first.
"Three days ago, I infected him with a virus from Peter Parker's DNA.
"The results were gratifying.
"Every cell of his body invaded and transformed by the virus, Serba almost instantly became Peter Parker.
"... just as Joyce Delany now becomes Gwen Stacy." *
*CHECK OUT SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #149 IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US!--ERIC

THE JACKAL'S CLONES WERE NOTHING MORE THAN VICTIMS OF A CRUEL DISEASE--
--THE ONE OUR REDEEMER HAD PROMISED NEVER TO USE AGAIN DUE TO ITS LETHAL CONSEQUENCE!
NOW, JUST HOLD ON A SEC!
YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU HAVE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE THAT THIS WHOLE CLONE THING IS BOGUS?!
I MEAN, IF PARKER IS REALLY THIS ANTHONY SERBA, DOESN'T SERBA DESERVE TO GET HIS LIFE BACK??
ANUBIA'S STORY, ON TOP OF THE INFORMATION I GLIMPSED BACK AT THE JACKAL'S LAB, SEEMS TO POINT TO THE INCONTROVERTIBLE FACT THAT THE CLONES WERE A FARCE.
THIS IS TOO MUCH! AM I THIS "ANTHONY SERBA" THE JOURNAL MENTIONS?
WORSE YET, DID I LIE TO PETER WHEN I CONVINCED HIM THAT HE HAS AS MUCH RIGHT TO HIS LIFE AS I DO?
WOW.

ONE THING I DON'T GET--IF THE JACKAL WAS A PHONY, WHY DO YOU STILL WORSHIP HIM?
THE CULT DISBANDED, BUT A SMALL GROUP OF US MAINTAIN THIS SHRINE TO THE JACKAL SO THAT HIS GOLDEN PLAN FOR OUR SALVATION WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN...
A FEW BELIEVE THAT THE JACKAL WILL COME AGAIN TO REDEEM US FROM THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY--
--WHO SCORNS OUR PLEA FOR HUMANITY IN FAVOR OF PLAYING GOD TO THE THANKLESS HUMANS.
WELL, I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU, NEW MEN--THE JACKAL WAS NO SAINT, BUT AS FAR AS I KNOW--
--CLONING IS POSSIBLE!
CLAP CLAP
GUARDIANS OF THE SACRED CRUSADE, ATTEND ME!
WE EMBARK ON A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY'S LAB!
TODAY WE SHALL UNCOVER THE TRUTH--EVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF OUR LIVES!

SOON, ON THE COBBLESTONE STREETS OF WUNDAGORE
DIDJA REALLY MEAN, "AT THE EXPENSE OF OUR LIVES," 'NUBIA?
WHATSAMATTER, CAIMAN-- CHICKEN?
QUIET, HARRIER! WE MUST NOT DRAW ANY UNDUE ATTENTION TO OUR GUEST.
DO WE GET TO EAT HIM WHEN THIS IS OVER?
HEY!
HERE! THIS LID COVERS AN AQUEDUCT WHICH LEADS TO THE MASTER'S DOMAIN!
AGAIN WITH THE SEWERS? ARE YOU TRYING TO GIVE ME A COMPLEX?
FOLLOW THE TUNNEL TO THE AIR CONDITIONING DUCT AT THE FAR END
THIS IS THE CENTRAL PROCESSING PLANT OF THE EVOLUTIONARY'S CITADEL--
--WHERE HE PLOTS THE GENETIC DESTINY OF THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE.
uh-oh SPIDER-SENSE JUST KICKED INTO OVERDRIVE

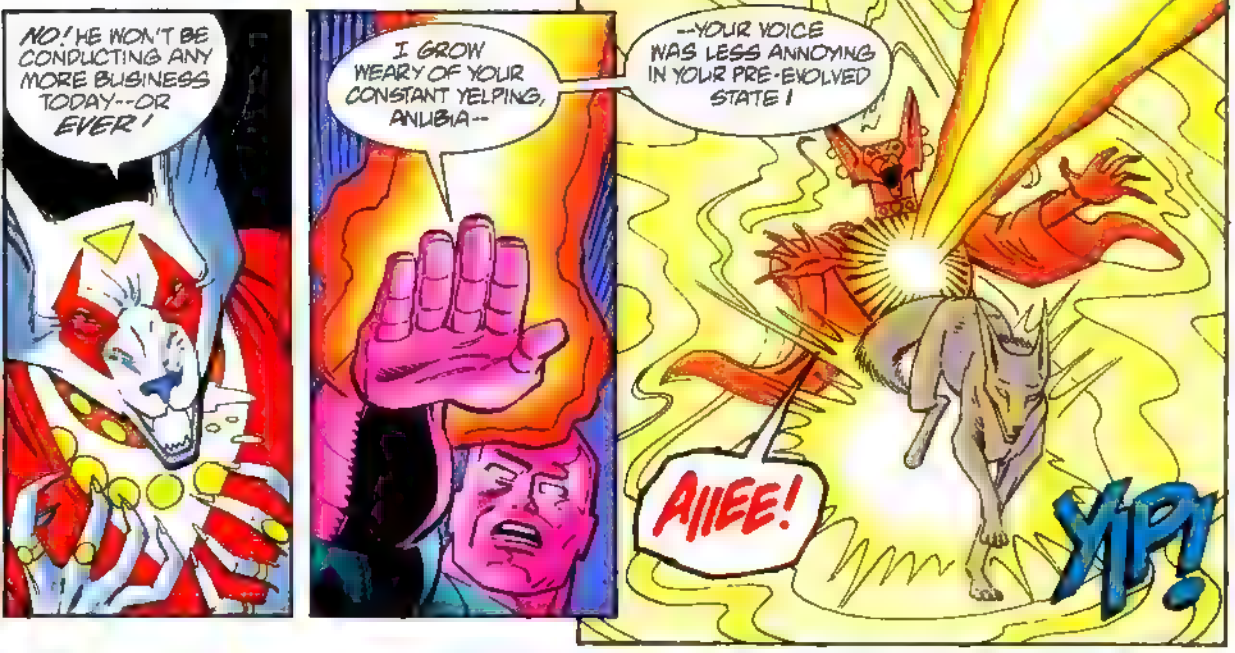

" WE'VE GOT COMPANY! "
HELLO, NEW MEN.
GREETINGS, WALL-CRAWLER YOU WILL NOT FIND US AS INDULGENT AS BEFORE, BECAUSE THIS IS OUR HOME TURF--
--AND WE ARE THE KNIGHTS OF WUNDAGORE!
I'M IMPRESSED, ANUBIA! YOUR TASK FORCE SEEMS REMARKABLY EVENLY MATCHED AGAINST US--
OTHER THAN YOURSELF, THAT IS!
ANUBIA!

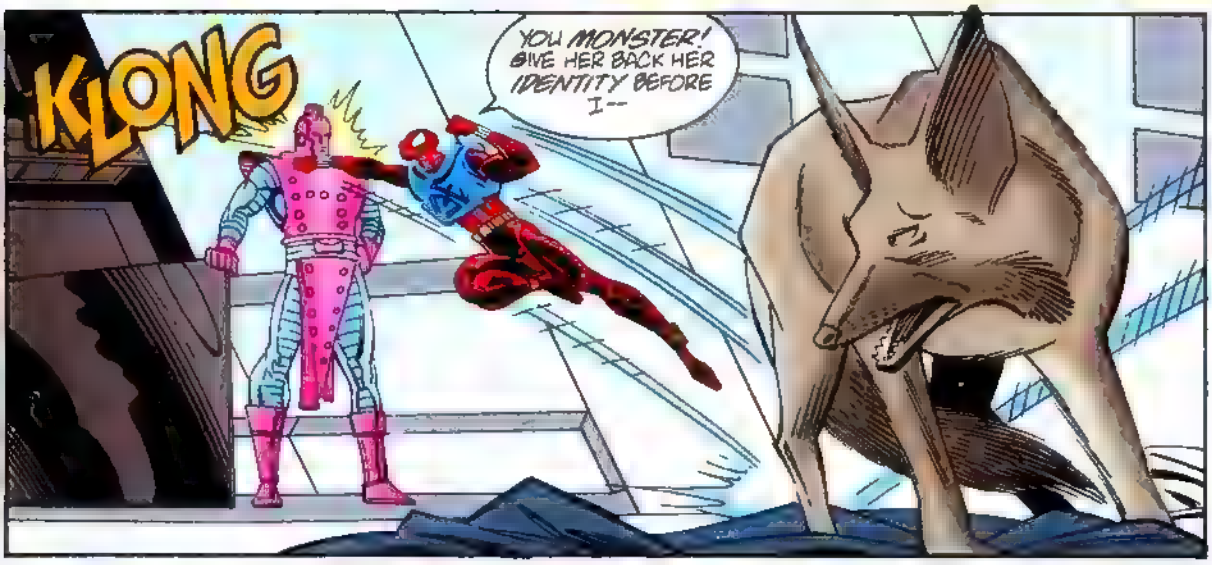
THAT'S OUR HIGH PRIESTESS YER DROOLIN' OVER, BATS
LET ME GO --BEFORE I SINK MY TEETH INTO YOU!
PIRANIS WILL SHOW YOU THE MEANING OF TEETH!
UNGH!
IN YOUR DREAMS, FISH-HEAD!
PIRANIS IS IN TROUBLE!
NOT SO MUCH AS YOU! I GOT A HANKERIN' FOR A HARRIER SANDWICH!
YOU MEAN A FRIED HARRIER SANDWICH!
FZAP
WRONG ON BOTH COUNTS!
OOPH!
YOU ONLY PROLONG THE WINGED FOOL'S DEMISE--

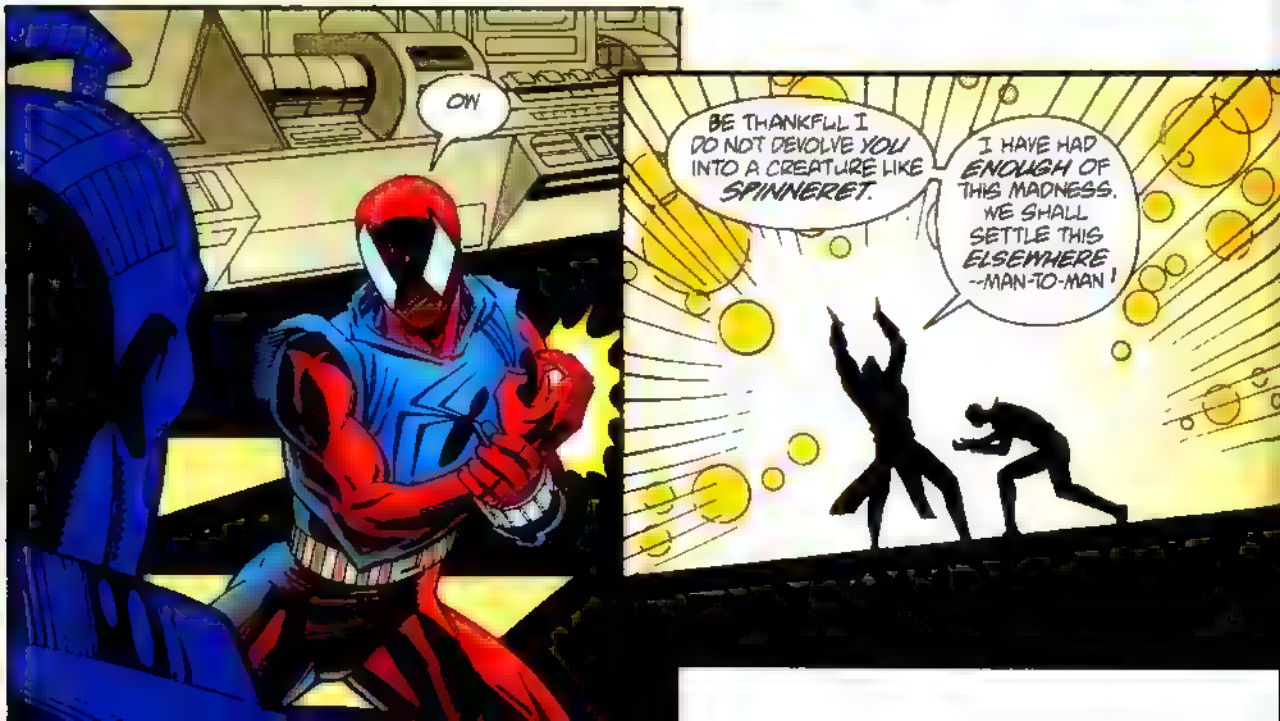
EH? WHERE'D HE GO?
DOPE! A HARRIER'S WINGS ARE DESIGNED TO SNATCH LIVING PREY FROM THE AIR--
--WHILE THE LAZY BUZZARD WAITS FOR ITS VICTIMS TO DIE!
THIS TIME, YOU WAITED TOO LONG!
I NOTICE, MY COUSIN, THAT THE MASTER EVOLVED THE TAIL RIGHT OFF YOUR BACKSIDE!
TOO BAD!
IHWOP
KRASH
WONDERFUL! A BATTLE OF THE DEEP, IN THE SKY, ON A STEED!
GET OFF, YOU FOOL!
YOUR BODY MAY BE IMPENETRABLE--BUT I GATHER YOUR ANTENNAE HAVE LOTS OF SENSITIVE NERVE ENDINGS!
WHAM
I LOVE IT WHEN I'M RIGHT!
CHOMP
AEEEE!

HU-MAN MOCKERY--
--YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO MESS WITH THE LORD HIGH'S PLAN FOR WORLD EVOLUTION
YOU KISS YOUR MOTHER WITH THAT MOUTH?
THBBP
SORRY, "CHARLOTTE"--I'VE GOT MY OWN PATENTED WEBBING.
THIS BRAND'S CALLED IMPACT WEBBING, AND IT'S GOING TO GUNK UP YOUR MASTER'S PRECIOUS WORKS AS SOON AS IT MAKES--
THWIP
--CONTACT?
I CANNOT ALLOW THAT
BLOOP

STOP THIS.
NOW!
ULP! THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY, I PRESUME?
FORGIVE US, MASTER WE DIDN'T MEAN TO DISTURB YOU.
WE'LL MOP UP THESE TURNCOATS QUIETLY YOU CAN GO BACK TO YOUR BUSINESS

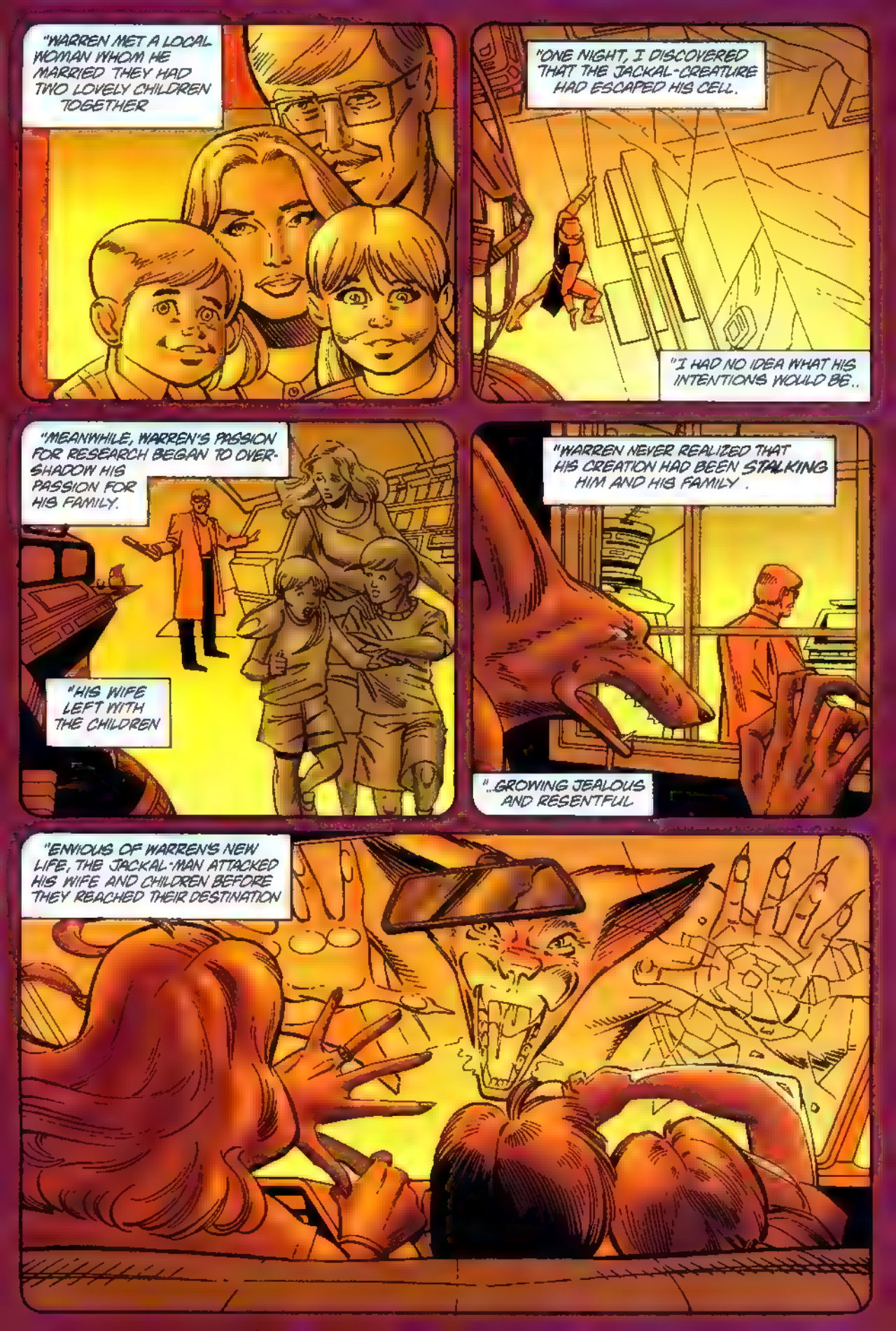

NO! HE WON'T BE CONDUCTING ANY MORE BUSINESS TODAY--OR EVER!
I GROW WEARY OF YOUR CONSTANT YELPING, ANUBIA--
--YOUR VOICE WAS LESS ANNOYING IN YOUR PRE-EVOLVED STATE!
AIIEE!
YIP!


KLONG
YOU MONSTER! GIVE HER BACK HER IDENTITY BEFORE I--

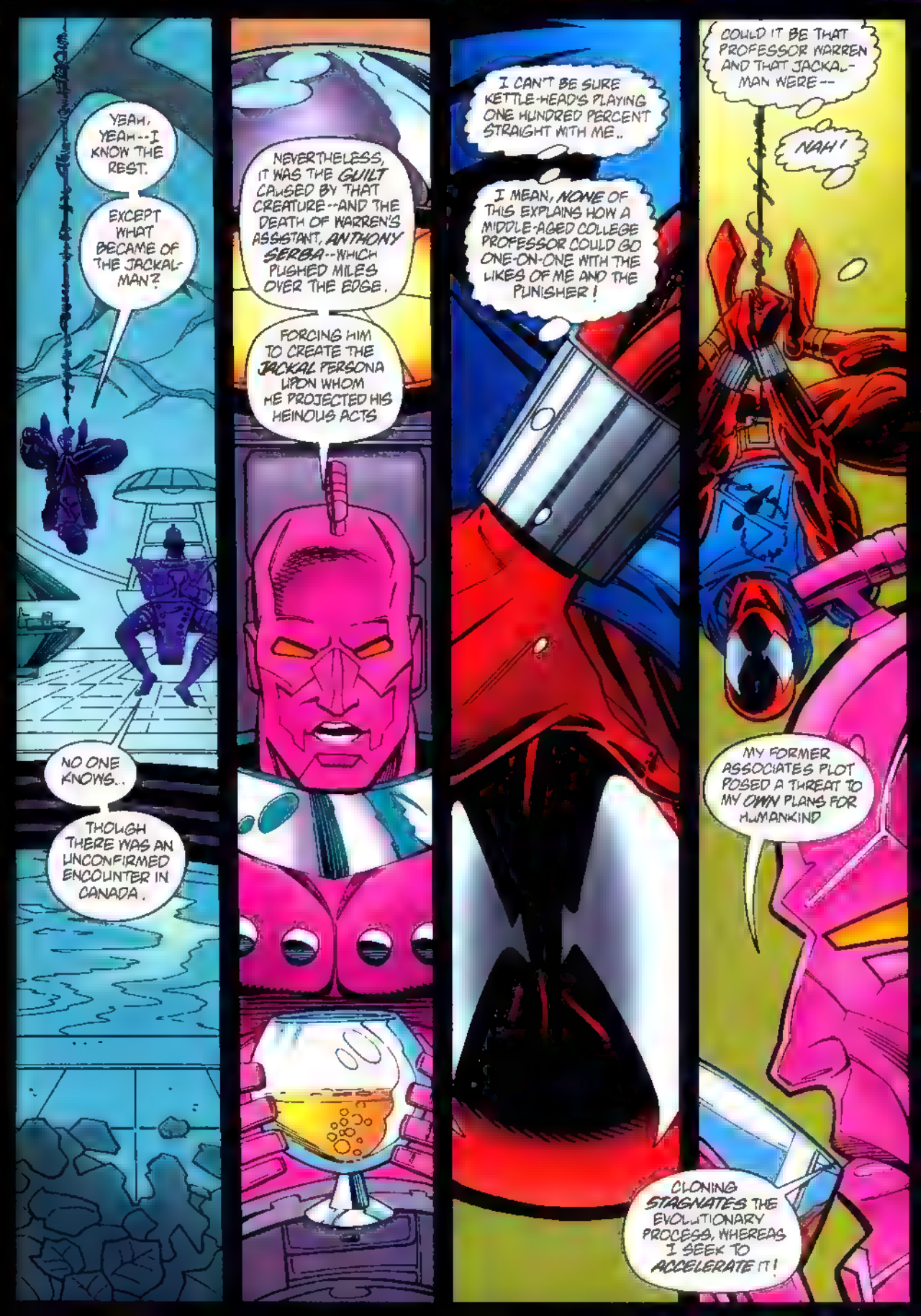

OW
BE THANKFUL I DO NOT DEVOLVE YOU INTO A CREATURE LIKE SPINNERET.
I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS MADNESS. WE SHALL SETTLE THIS ELSEWHERE --MAN-TO-MAN!

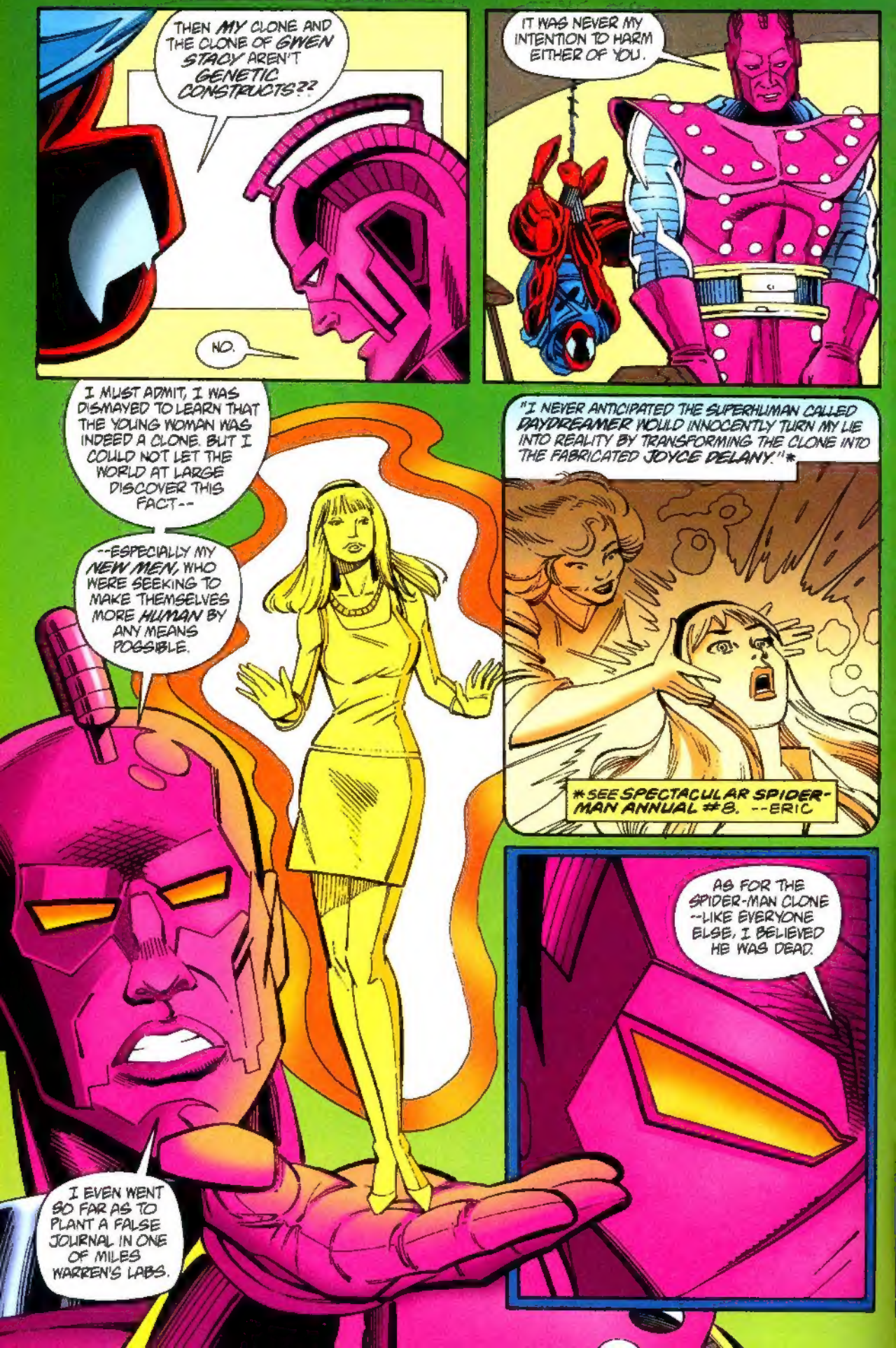
WELCOME TO MY READY-ROOM, SPIDER-MAN.
SCARLET SPIDER HEY, HOW D YOU DO THAT?!
MY LAB IS EQUIPPED WITH A SPATIAL DISTORTION DEVICE THAT MAKES TELEPORTATION A SIMPLE MATTER.
IT SEEMS WE ARE BOTH VICTIMS OF THE JACKAL'S TREACHERY, AND ESSENTIALLY ON THE SAME SIDE.
SHEESH! WHEN I WORE THE SPIDEY SUIT, I USUALLY MIXED IT UP WITH STREET-LEVEL GOONS WITH DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR
BUT SOMEONE WHO SINGLEHANDEDLY INTENDS TO EVOLVE THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE? MY COUNTERPART LEFT SOME PRETTY BIG BOOTS TO FILL!
TALK, TIN-MAN WHAT'S YOUR STORY?
YES. YOU OF ALL PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW
FOR EVERYTHING THAT TRANSPIRES THIS DAY, AS WELL AS EVERYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU THESE PAST FIVE YEARS, I MUST ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY
BECAUSE, YOU SEE, I CREATED THE JACKAL!

:SIGH: I GUESS WHEN YOU'RE IN STORYBOOK LAND, YOU GET TO HEAR A LOT OF STORIES!
I ASSUME ANUBIA TOLD YOU EVERYTHING SHE BELIEVES TO BE THE TRUTH. I SHALL TRY NOT TO BE REDUNDANT...
". YEARS AGO, MY RESEARCH ASSISTANT, MILES WARREN, AND I WORKED FEVERISHLY ON EVOLVING ANIMALS INTO SENTIENT BIPEDS.
"ONE SUBJECT THAT ATTRACTED WARREN'S ATTENTION WAS A PARTICULAR JACKAL.
"WITHOUT MY CONSENT, HE USED MY TECHNOLOGY TO EVOLVE HIM TO A NEAR-HUMAN APPEARANCE
"UNFORTUNATELY, IT MANIFESTED A SAVAGE JEKYLL AND HYDE PERSONALITY
"THOUGH IT POSSESSED A SIGNIFICANTLY HIGH I.Q., THE NEW MAN WOULD SNEAK INTO THE NEARBY FARMS AT NIGHT AND SLAUGHTER THE ANIMALS.
"THE LOCAL TOWNSPEOPLE WOULD ORGANIZE HUNTS FOR THE CREATURE, AFTER CLOSING IN ON MY OPERATIONS.
"LEARNING OF MY ASSISTANT'S UNAUTHORIZED EXPERIMENT, I BANISHED MILES WARREN FROM WUNDAGORE.


"WARREN MET A LOCAL WOMAN WHOM HE MARRIED. THEY HAD TWO LOVELY CHILDREN TOGETHER
"ONE NIGHT, I DISCOVERED THAT THE JACKAL-CREATURE HAD ESCAPED HIS CELL.
"I HAD NO IDEA WHAT HIS INTENTIONS WOULD BE..
"MEANWHILE, WARREN'S PASSION FOR RESEARCH BEGAN TO OVER-SHADOW HIS PASSION FOR HIS FAMILY.
"HIS WIFE LEFT WITH THE CHILDREN
"WARREN NEVER REALIZED THAT HIS CREATION HAD BEEN STALKING HIM AND HIS FAMILY.
"...GROWING JEALOUS AND RESENTFUL
"ENVIOUS OF WARREN'S NEW LIFE, THE JACKAL-MAN ATTACKED HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN BEFORE THEY REACHED THEIR DESTINATION

"THE AUTHORITIES NOTIFIED WARREN ABOUT THE 'ACCIDENT,' CLAIMING IT HAD BEEN CAUSED BY SOME SORT OF WILD ANIMAL.
"BUT WARREN REALIZED THE TRUTH--HIS PAST HAD COME BACK TO HAUNT HIM
"BLAMING ME FOR THE DEATH OF HIS FAMILY, MILES WARREN RETURNED TO WUNDAGORE..
"...AND CHALLENGED MY AUTHORITY OVER THE NEW MEN.
"PROMISING TO MAKE THEM HUMAN, WARREN LED A FACTION OF MY NEW MEN OUT OF WUNDAGORE."


YEAH, YEAH--I KNOW THE REST.
EXCEPT WHAT BECAME OF THE JACKAL-MAN?
NO ONE KNOWS..
THOUGH THERE WAS AN UNCONFIRMED ENCOUNTER IN CANADA.
NEVERTHELESS, IT WAS THE GUILT CAUSED BY THAT CREATURE--AND THE DEATH OF WARREN'S ASSISTANT, ANTHONY SERBA--WHICH PUSHED MILES OVER THE EDGE.
FORCING HIM TO CREATE THE JACKAL PERSONA UPON WHOM HE PROJECTED HIS HEINOUS ACTS
I CAN'T BE SURE KETTLE-HEAD'S PLAYING ONE HUNDRED PERCENT STRAIGHT WITH ME..
I MEAN, NONE OF THIS EXPLAINS HOW A MIDDLE-AGED COLLEGE PROFESSOR COULD GO ONE-ON-ONE WITH THE LIKES OF ME AND THE PUNISHER!
COULD IT BE THAT PROFESSOR WARREN AND THAT JACKAL-MAN WERE--
NAH!
MY FORMER ASSOCIATES POSED A THREAT TO MY OWN PLANS FOR HUMANKIND
CLONING STAGNATES THE EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS, WHEREAS I SEEK TO ACCELERATE IT!


THEN MY CLONE AND THE CLONE OF GWEN STACY AREN'T GENETIC CONSTRUCTS??
NO.
IT WAS NEVER MY INTENTION TO HARM EITHER OF YOU.
I MUST ADMIT, I WAS DISMAYED TO LEARN THAT THE YOUNG WOMAN WAS INDEED A CLONE. BUT I COULD NOT LET THE WORLD AT LARGE DISCOVER THIS FACT--
--ESPECIALLY MY NEW MEN, WHO WERE SEEKING TO MAKE THEMSELVES MORE HUMAN BY ANY MEANS POSSIBLE.
"I NEVER ANTICIPATED THE SUPERHUMAN CALLED DAYDREAMER WOULD INNOCENTLY TURN MY LIE INTO REALITY BY TRANSFORMING THE CLONE INTO THE FABRICATED JOYCE DELANY."*
*SEE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #8. --ERIC
I EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO PLANT A FALSE JOURNAL IN ONE OF MILES WARREN'S LABS.
AS FOR THE SPIDER-MAN CLONE --LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, I BELIEVED HE WAS DEAD.

NOW I REALIZE THE HARM MY CHARADE HAS CAUSED, WHICH IS WHY I CHOSE TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT WITH YOU.
YOU SHOULD SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT WITH THE NEW MEN!
INDEED.
BEHOLD, I TURN MY BACK FOR ONE INSTANT, AND THEY ARE BICKERING LIKE CHILDREN AGAIN.
BUT ISN'T THAT WHAT THEY ARE--YOUR CHILDREN?
YOU ARE OBSERVANT, SCARLET SPIDER--
--AND AS CHILDREN, THEY MUST BE ENLIGHTENED, NOT PUNISHED.
WELCOME BACK, ANUBIA. NEW MEN--I BID YOU ALL LISTEN TO OUR CRIMSON CALLER!
I'VE LEARNED THAT THE JACKAL DID INDEED PERFECT THE ART OF CLONING.
BUT--HE ALSO KILLED THE POPULATION OF AN ENTIRE TOWN SO THAT HE COULD REPLACE THEM WITH MENTALLY ENSLAVED CLONES!
IT IS NOT YOUR GENETIC DESTINY TO BECOME HUMAN! YOU MUST TAKE PRIDE AS A RACE EVERY BIT THE EQUAL OF HUMANKIND!

NOW OUR GUEST MUST RETURN TO HIS WORLD AS WE BEGIN TO REBUILD OUR LIVES-- TOGETHER.
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.
BUT I'LL BE WATCHING OUT FOR YOU! IN SEEKING TO CONTROL EVOLUTION YOU SEEK TO CONTROL HUMANITY, JUST LIKE WARREN DID--!
GOOD RIDDANCE TO BAD RUBBISH.
HEY, BOSS! WHAT'S THIS...?
NO!
THWAM
YUMMY.
YUCK!
MASTER, ARE YOU LAUGHING AT US?
KOMODO --CALL ME HERBERT.

AT THAT MOMENT, HALF A WORLD AWAY...
BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE...
RAVEN!
Uhhh, WHA--?
C'MON, JACOB, WAKE UP! THE DANGER'S OVER!
NO!
LOOK!!
KAINE IS MISSING!
THE END?! NOT BY A LONG SHOT! LOOK FOR MORE ABOUT KAINE IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND JOIN US NEXT ISSUE WHEN THE NEW SPIDER-MAN MEETS THE BLACK CAT!